



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 30, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: The General Counsel (GC-1)

FROM: Patricia A. Hoffman *PAH*
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability (OE-1)

SUBJECT: 2009 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Annual Planning Summary

Attached for your information is the NEPA Annual Planning Summary for FY 2009 for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE). The Summary describes the status of ongoing and projected environmental assessments and environmental impact statements (EIS) within OE. OE is the lead for the preparation of a Programmatic EIS for the designation of energy corridors on Federal lands for the Eastern States, Alaska and Hawaii, as mandated by section 368(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The majority of OE's NEPA activities arise from OE's traditional role of processing Presidential permit applications. OE is not aware of any other Presidential permit applications that will be submitted within the immediate future beyond those identified in the Summary. However, at this time OE has not determined the extent, if any, of its NEPA requirements associated with the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*.

Questions or matters related to this NEPA Planning Summary should be directed to OE's NEPA Compliance Officer, Brian Mills, at 202-586-8267.

Attachment



**OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY
AND
ENERGY RELIABILITY**

NEPA Annual Planning Summary

2009

Environmental Assessments

Loring Bio-Energy, LLC (LBE) (DOE/EA-____) - LBE has applied to OE for a Presidential permit to construct a 138-kV electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border in the vicinity of Limestone, Maine. The line would be about 5 miles long within the U.S. The approximately 9-mile long overall "generator lead" would connect the to-be-built LBE gas-powered combined cycle turbine power plant facility with the New Brunswick, Canada, grid at Grand Fall Parish in New Brunswick. OE's preliminary impression is that the proposed project may require only an environmental assessment (EA), pending the availability of additional environmental information and consultation with GC. A schedule has not yet been developed for preparation of the pre-approval EA.

Environmental Impact Statements

On Going Environmental Impact Statements

Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) (DOE/EIS-0336) - TEP has applied for a Presidential permit to construct a double-circuit, 345-kV electric transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border in the vicinity of Nogales, Arizona. The U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission are cooperating agencies in the preparation of this EIS. The Final EIS was published in January 2005 but we are awaiting completion of the State siting process before issuing a Record of Decision. Most recent indications are that TEP may reapply for a Presidential permit with a new route variation from what had been previously proposed, but OE has not received any confirmation of this. Depending on the nature of the revised proposal and current circumstances, a supplemental EIS may be warranted.

New Environmental Impact Statements

Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the Rest of the United States (DOE/EIS-0406) – Pursuant to section 368(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DOE and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, the Interior, and Defense are cooperating in the preparation of a Programmatic EIS for the purpose of designating energy corridors on Federal lands in the 39 states not included in the eleven contiguous Western States.

DOE is the co-lead Agency together with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service (the Agencies). Interagency strategy meetings were held in February 2008. An Advance Notice of Intent (ANOI) (Federal Register /Vol. 73, No. 193 / Notices 57613) was published on Friday, October 3, 2008. The results of the ANOI are being evaluated by the Agencies. Argonne National Laboratory will continue under existing contract and is currently collecting data.

Energia Sierra Juarez (DOE/EIS-____) - Energia Sierra Juarez (ESJ) (formerly Baja Wind) applied to OE for a Presidential permit to construct either a 230-kV or 500-kV electric transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border. The proposed transmission line would originate inside Mexico at the proposed La Rumorosa Wind Generation Facility. The proposed facilities would continue north approximately two miles to the U.S.-Mexico border, and one additional mile inside the U.S. to a new substation to be constructed on the existing Southwest Powerlink. The proposed transmission line would be used to transmit up to 1250 MW of renewable energy into the California electricity market. OE conducted scoping meetings in August 2008 associated with a scoped EA. OE has now determined the appropriate level of NEPA review to be an EIS and will begin the NOI process in February 2009.